

Remarks

By way of the present preliminary amendment, the specification has been amended to indicate the relationship of the present application to the priority documents. The above-referenced is a National Phase, continuation application of International Application No. PCT/EP2003/007551, filed July 11, 2003, which claims the benefit of German Application No. 102 31 655.4, filed July 12, 2002. The entire disclosures of these applications are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety.

Also, by way of the present preliminary amendment, claims 1-28 as published in WO 2004/007701 A1 have been amended to bring the present application into correspondence with the amended claims as annexed to the International Preliminary Examination Report of International Application No. PCT/EP03/07551. No new matter enters by this amendment. Support for the foregoing claim amendments may be found throughout the specification and in the original claims.

In view of the above, Applicants request the Office to enter the foregoing amendment in the application prior to examination on the merits. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (202) 942-5186 with respect to any unresolved issues remaining in this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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